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# Justice probing Farrakhan's trip to Libya

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The Justice Department is deciding whether Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan should be prosecuted for attending what the Reagan administration has billed a "terrorist convention" in Libya last month, a senior agency official said yesterday.

President Reagan signed an executive order last January banning Americans from traveling to Libya or conducting business with the Libyan government.

"The question is did he [Mr. Farrakhan] spend any money while he was there? That's what we're looking into now," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

Attorney General Edwin Meese III, in a February interview with The Washington Times, warned that the Justice Department would be prepared to take appropriate action if Mr. Farrakhan defied Mr. Reagan's ban.

"Depending on what [Mr. Farrakhan] does or how he does it, if the law is violated," Mr. Meese said, "he should be prosecuted."

According to Libya's official news agency, Mr. Farrakhan introduced Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qaddafi at a March 15 convention in Tripoli. Intelligence sources said the convention, the "Second International General Conference to Combat Imperialism, Zionism, Racism, Reaction and Fascism," was attended by underground groups and terrorists from a number of countries.

Representatives of some 300 socialist, communist, revolutionary and terrorist groups took part in the convention, including delegations from the Soviet Union, Cuba, Bulgaria, Lebanon, Iran, North Korea and Nicaragua.

The publication Early Warning re-

ported that Stokely Carmichael's All-Africa People's Revolutionary Party was among a handful of U.S.-based organizations which attended the convention, along with a small group of American blacks, believed to be from Chicago, who were attached to the Sandinista delegation.

Mr. Farrakhan, in a National Press Club news conference last February, said he intended to "test the constitutionality" of the presidential order by visiting Libya.

"We cannot obey your orders because you do not have the right to order us," Mr. Farrakhan said of the president's order. "You may request but you cannot order."

Mr. Farrakhan said Libya is a base not for terrorist activities but for "the support of all those who fight against tyranny and oppression in the world."

The Justice Department said yesterday the department's criminal division was leading the investigation into Mr. Farrakhan's Libyan trip through the U.S. Attorney's office in Chicago, where the Nation of Islam is based.

Mr. Farrakhan could not be reached yesterday, but a spokesman for the Nation of Islam said there would be no comment.

In issuing the executive order, Mr. Reagan imposed fines of up to \$50,000 and maximum prison terms of 10 years for those who defy the ban and travel to Libya without State Department authorization.

Government sources said Mr. Farrakhan has been to Libya before. The fiery orator announced to a crowd of 3,000 followers at the Kennedy Center last May that "Brother Qaddafi has given me a \$5 million interest-free loan" to help establish a business corporation to hire blacks.

Col. Qaddafi reportedly also has offered Mr. Farrakhan a large shipment of weapons to fight "racist oppressors."